

News


Queensland


VIDEO

Hugh Walker, 66, dies after fire destroys three homes in Hawthorne, Brisbane

The man killed in a Brisbane house fire has been remembered as a “great guy” who had recently come to the aid of neighbours during a similar tragedy. WATCH THE VIDEO

Andreas Nicola and Samantha Scott

 3 min read August 21, 2023 - 11:44AM

 1 comments

QLD News

Don't miss out on the headlines from QLD News. Followed categories will be added to My News.

Alt+Q

[Follow](#)

The man who died after being pulled from his burning Hawthorne house at the weekend had in a tragic twist helped neighbours during another fire in the same street.

Hugh Walker, 66, died in Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital overnight after suffering burns to 80 per cent of his body in the blaze that destroyed three homes on [Forbes Street, Hawthorne](#) on Saturday night.

6:18

is



Emergency services battle the towering inferno that ripped through three houses in Hawthorne on Saturday night. Picture: Supplied.

The tight-knit community of Hawthorne expressed their devastation on Monday morning after hearing their friend Mr Walker had died.

Neighbour Peter Braat said he had known Mr Walker, a “handyman”, for more than 30 years.

“He had a big heart and he was a great guy. And he was always the first one to help people,” he said.

Mr Braat said Mr Walker had previously assisted with a fire in the street a few years ago.

“He put on his high vis shirt and took control ... with traffic and everything,” he said

“Neighbours returned the favour and really tried to help him the other night.”

Community chaplain Lance Mergard said it was a tight-knit community and that a lot of people knew Mr Walker.

DIAMO

Wint

New

adde

SH

6:18



Hugh Walker, 66, died after being pulled from a house fire in Hawthorne on Saturday night. Picture: Supplied

Mr Mergard said neighbours are struggling to deal with the “trauma” and the “long road ahead”.

Dramatic footage captured neighbours smashing windows and running into the fire to get to Mr Walker, who’d become trapped by the blaze.

They managed to pull the 66-year-old out of the burning house and on to the front yard where they poured on him with a garden hose and rendered first aid until emergency services arrived.

6:18



Peter Tarrant told 9 News that he rushed to the burning home after realising Mr Walker was still inside.

“I was asking (Mr Walker’s wife) ‘where’s Hugh, where’s Hugh’,” he said.

“She didn’t know where he was, she thought he was still in the house, so I approached the front door and Hugh basically came out, he was literally on fire.”

[My News](#)[Today's Paper](#)[Local](#)[QLD](#)[National](#)[World](#)[Opinion](#)[Business](#)[Entertainment](#)[Lifestyle](#)[Sport](#)

Inspector Steve Newland said it was a “large and confronting scene”.

“Police have been advised that the neighbours did rescue the male who was engulfed in the fire,” he said.

“They obviously acted selflessly to try and aid the person and render first aid at the scene. It would have been very confronting and challenging for them.”

“It’s obviously very tragic circumstances for the families involved.

“It is a very tight knit community obviously emotions are high due to the extensive damage and the unexpected nature and the serious injuries of the male person. “

He was treated at the scene for significant burns on over 80 per cent of his body before being taken to the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital where he was later placed on life support.

6:18



Investigators at the scene of the house fire on Forbes Street, Hawthorne. Picture: Lachie Millard

Two other men who tried helping, both in their 30s, were taken to the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital in stable conditions for smoke inhalation.

Insp Newland said investigations into how the fire started will continue on Monday morning.

“So far due to the extensive damage and the time it takes to investigate these matters, we haven’t come to any conclusions at this stage,” he said.

“We believe the occupant heard a loud bang from the rear of the property.

“Upon investigations the female occupant went into the kitchen at which time she saw smoke coming from the back of the dishwasher.

“She then saw through the window flames coming from the back of the home on the outside it would appear and at that stage the male occupant went to investigate and found a fire at the rear of the property.”

Insp Newland said they would look at everything at the rear of the property including the hot water system.

He said they wouldn’t rule the fire out as suspicious until investigations concluded.

“But at this stage it would appear as though it is non suspicious just due to the versions provided by the occupant the fire started at the rear,” he said.

Member for Bulimba Di Farmer described Mr Walker’s death as “desperately sad”.

“It is desperately sad to know that Hugh Walker, a much loved friend and neighbour in our community, has lost his life after a house fire over the weekend,” she wrote on social media.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

“Neighbours rallied while the fire was raging. This is what our community does.

“Today we hold our loved ones just that little bit closer.”

A report will be prepared for the coroner.

Police are asking for anyone with information or relevant vision to come forward.

6:18



More Coverage



Victim battles burns as police probe fire that tore through three houses

Join the conversation (1 comments)

Promoted Content

How to make a restaurant meal at home

We Recommend

Heart Surgeon Begg Americans: “Stop Doing This”

Promoted | GUNDRY MD

Learn More

Aussies Baffled By What HelloFresh Deliver

Promoted | THE DAILY FOODIES

Learn More

Why Seniors with Private Health are losing money

Promoted | HEALTH INSURANCE COMPARISON

Learn More

Heart Surgeon Begg Americans: "Stop Putting This in Your Coffee"

Promoted | GUNDRY MD

Learn More

New Nail Fungus Trick Surprising Doctors

Promoted | ADVANCED HEALTH

Learn More

What Happens If Someone Dies Without a Will in Australia?

Promoted | SUREWILL AU

Read More

Pensioners born before 1969 are eligible for invisible hearing aids

Promoted | BEST HEARING AIDS

Read More

The home of loan options.

Credit criteria, terms, conditions, fees and charges apply. © Pepper Money Limited ABN 55 094 317 665
Australian credit license 284655, Pepper Asset Finance Pty Ltd ACN 185 183 317, Australian credit license 458899

Genius Japanese Invention Cleans Everything in Your House

Promoted | TOPGADGETS [↗](#)

Earn Overnight Profits with AI Trader. No Experienced Required.

Promoted | TRADER HEADLINES [↗](#)

New AI App That Makes Money Trading Takes Australia By Storm

Promoted | MYSUCCESSWITHAI.COM [↗](#)

For Australians Over 30, this Relaxing Game is a Must-Have (no download required)

Promoted | FORGE OF EMPIRES [↗](#)

Aussies Born Before 1962 With Private Health Are Losing Money

Promoted | HEALTH INSURANCE COMPARISON [↗](#)

Queensland:Stained Glass Birds Take Flight.

Promoted | LIBIYI [↗](#)

The Aus. Ex-Military Truck Putting Other 4WDs To Shame

Promoted | AUSTRALIAN FRONTLINE MACHINERY [↗](#)

Australia: Every Family Should Know This Cleaning Trick In 2023

Promoted | TRENDING DISCOUNTS DAILY [↗](#)

QUEENSLAND

Shocking brawl involving teen girls at Beaudesert Public Library

ENTERTAINMENT

Sinéad O’Connor was warned by Joe Pesci he would have given her a “smack”

SPONSORED

Why this inland city is thriving

SPONSORED

The enduring advantages of women's sports

SPONSORED

Samsung is changing what you know about the selfie

WORLD

At least 36 people have died on Maui as fires burn through Hawaii

WORLD

Pedestrian hit, killed by train in Woodbridge: police

6 : 18

ip

2

lore

Play Now

Learn More

Read More

Read More

Shop Now

Movie Critics Called This Mistake "Unforgivable"

Promoted | LIFESTYLE 1ST

Car wash owners don't want you to know about this handheld vacuum

Promoted | ASPERIZZE

Doctors Amazed: A Simple Tip Against Toenail Fungus (Test Tonight)

Promoted | FUNGUS HELPER

WORLD

VIDEO: Apartments near Cedar Park brush fire

WORLD

Homes burn as wildfire hits Kelowna, B.C., area

Joint pain: A simple trick to relieve pain easily

Promoted | THE JOINT HELPER

Bowel doctor: I implore all Britons to flush their bowels with this tip (every morning)

Promoted | GUT SOLUTION

How Far Does \$1,000,000 Go in Retirement?

Promoted | FISHER INVESTMENTS AUSTRALIA

ENTERTAINMENT

Sandra Bullock’s partner Bryan Randall dies aged 57

ENTERTAINMENT

Former Young Talent Time star Debra Byrne tells of horror at facing homelessness

Boring Meals? Try this Exciting Recipe Box (Affordable)

Promoted | CULINARY CHRONICLES

Learn More

Your 2023 Horoscope Is So Accurate It Will Give You Goosebumps

Promoted | MY ASTROLOGY

Read More

A Sydney beachfront lifestyle valued at \$3.2M could be yours!

Promoted | RSL ART UNION

Shop Now

SPONSORED

Top burning parenting questions

SPONSORED

How Gen AI is driving growth

More related stories



Lifestyle

1000+ faces: Every Ekka 2023 social photo

Ekka 2023 has broken all kinds of records and we have been there to capture every bit of the action. SEE EVERY PHOTO



Property



Qld crimewave sparks increase in requests for panic rooms

6 : 18



Subscribe

Sign In

Membership	About Us	Contact Us	Our News Network	Our Partners	Our Apps
Subscription packages	About us	Help & support	Herald Sun	Buy Search Sell Classifieds	 
Group/Corporate subscriptions	Meet the team	FAQs	The Daily Telegraph	Find Your Local	
The Courier Mail app	Job opportunities	Letter to the Editor	The Advertiser	Foxsports	
Today's Paper	Code of conduct	Photo Print Sales	news.com.au	Foxtel	
Newsletters	Subscription FAQs	Licensing & Reprints	The Australian	Hipages	
Rewards	Subscription terms	Advertise with us	The Mercury	Kayo	
	Financial Hardship Policy		Geelong Advertiser	My Tributes	
			The Cairns Post	odds.com.au	
			Gold Coast Bulletin	Punters	
			Townsville Bulletin	racenet.com.au	
			The Chronicle	realestate.com.au	
			NT News	Sky News	
			The Weekly Times	Coupons	
			CODE Sports		

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. Find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out.Sometimes our articles will try to help you find the right product at the right price. We may receive payment from third parties for publishing this content or when you make a purchase through the links on our sites.